

[California Tax Forms](#)

[Federal Tax Forms](#)

Tax season is here and Congressman Sam Farr wants to make sure you have some useful information as you prepare to file your taxes. You may be eligible for free tax preparation services by IRS-certified volunteers through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. VITA volunteers are trained to help you receive your full refund. This includes the Earned Income Credit (EIC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC), federal tax credits for low- and moderate-income workers.

Am I Eligible? How Big a Tax Credit Can I Get?*

For the EIC, if you have:

Earned income less than:

Claim an EIC up to:

1 child

\$36,052

\$3,094

2 children

\$40,964

\$5,112

3 or more children

\$43,998

\$5,751

No children

\$13,660

\$464

For the CTC, if you have:

Earned more than:

Claim a CTC up to:

1 or more children

\$3,000

\$1,000 per child

EIC income limits for married workers are \$5,080 higher

What to bring:

- Valid Picture ID
- Social Security Card or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) for you and all your dependents
- Forms: W-2s, 1099s, 1098s, and all other tax forms you've received for 2011
- Optional - Blank check for direct deposit.

If you don't have all of these documents, call the IRS helpline at 1-800-829-1040 to find out what you need to do and get replacements.

Where to Find Free Tax Prep:

For the closest VITA site, call 1-800-906-9887.

Important Dates:

VITA sites open January 27, 2012. The deadline to file taxes is April 17, 2012.

If there is any way that my office can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to call 831-424-2229, or visit my office at 100 West Alisal Street, Salinas.

**Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*□